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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 30 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 29 September 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 29 September 1997 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

During the course of the general debate in the General Assembly on 26 September 1997, the Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister, Mr. Yannakis Cassoulides, in exercise of the right of reply, repeated the well-known positions of the Greek Cypriot side and levelled false accusations against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see A/52/PV.14). Since the Turkish Cypriot side is being denied its right of say in the General Assembly and other international forums, I am obliged to respond to these Greek Cypriot allegations in writing.

In his statement, Mr. Cassoulides endeavoured to deny the existence of two peoples, two separate administrations and two democracies in Cyprus. Such a recalcitrant attitude and the apparent reluctance to come to terms with the existing realities in the island is the primary reason behind the lack of progress in the process of negotiations between the two sides. The Greek Cypriot side has long preferred propaganda and the exploitation of international forums to negotiations for a settlement based on a new partnership of the two sides as political equals. It will be recalled that the existence of two separate and autonomous administrations in the island was acknowledged by the Foreign Ministers of the three guarantor Powers, Turkey, Greece and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, through a joint declaration issued at Geneva on 30 July 1974.

The Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot peoples, the co-founders of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus, which was destroyed by force of arms in 1963 by the Greek Cypriots in an effort to convert the island into an exclusively Greek Cypriot Republic prior to annexing it to Greece, are two distinct peoples with different languages, religions and ethnic backgrounds. The Turkish Cypriot people have been self-ruling since their ejection by force of arms from all State organs of the 1960 partnership republic in 1963. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was established in 1983 through the exercise of the inalienable right to self-determination of the Turkish Cypriot people. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is widely praised for the exemplary democracy in force in the country (see, for example, the successive annual human rights reports of the Department of State of the United States of America).

The Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister's attempt to defame the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and to distort the realities prevailing on the island, does not in any way suffice to conceal the legal and political fallacy in his own administration, which came into being as a result of the usurpation and continued occupation of the seat of government by force of arms in 1963.

Mr. Cassoulides has also referred to the unilateral process towards European Union membership pursued by his administration in total disregard of the international agreements on Cyprus, which preclude the membership of Cyprus in any international organization in which both Turkey and Greece are not members. This politically motivated move by the Greek Cypriot administration is designed to relegate the Turkish Cypriot people into a mere minority in a Greek

dominated island and to undermine the 1960 guarantee system which is an indispensable element for the security of the Turkish Cypriots in the face of the aggressive designs of the Greek Cypriot side as evidenced by its unprecedented militarization campaign.

The Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister has once again declared before the General Assembly that his administration is intent on deploying the sophisticated S-300 missile system in south Cyprus. This defiant mood, despite international reaction, obviously does not conform with the objective of maintaining peace and stability in the region. The pretext of defence considerations adduced to by Mr. Cassoulides is untenable as there is not threat of any kind directed at south Cyprus by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The presence of Turkish troops in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, on the other hand, has a manifest purpose of providing the necessary security guarantees for the Turkish Cypriots.

We hope that the international community will carefully evaluate the current stance of the Greek Cypriot adminstration in the light of its words and deeds, which are quickly eroding the chances of achieving a new atmosphere of trust and an eventual overall agreement in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ Plümer
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 30 September 1997 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 19 September 1997 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations which contains allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic" (A/52/370-S/1997/728 dated 19 September 1997).

I would like to recall that previous similar allegations regarding so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our successive communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 8 September 1997 (A/51/971-S/1997/698 of 9 September 1997). Since the present Greek Cypriot charges are no different or more credible than the ones previously made, they do not merit a detailed reply. I wish to underline once again, however, that flights within the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in the south has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

As I have repeatedly pointed out the endless barrage of such allegations made by the Greek Cypriot administration are designed to uphold the myth that it has sovereignty over the whole island and to cover up its dangerous policy of escalation and tension on the island. In my previous communication on the matter, I have drawn your attention to the fact that, within the framework of the so-called "joint defence doctrine", the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece are planning to stage joint military manoeuvres in and around south Cyprus between 10 and 15 October 1997, and that the provocative military exercises code-named "Nikiforos 97" will involve the participation of the Greek Armed Forces. It is reported by the Greek Cypriot press that the Greek Cypriot Defence Minister, Mr. Eliades, and the Commander of the Greek Cypriot National Guard, General Vorvolakos, have most recently visited Athens to finalize the details concerning the said military exercises (Greek Cypriot daily Agon of 21 September 1997). It has also been confirmed that the Greek Defence Minister, Mr. Cohachopoulos, has accepted the invitation of the Greek Cypriot side and will be present in south Cyprus during the military exercises (Greek Cypriot daily Mahi of 24 September 1997).

In the name of implementing the so-called "joint defence doctrine", the Greek-Greek Cypriot camp will once again create a warlike atmosphere in Cyprus that will only serve to exacerbate the situation on the island as tension is already running high owing to the Greek Cypriot side's decision to deploy the sophisticated S-300 missile system, in contravention of relevant Security Council resolutions. It is noteworthy that as part of "Nikiforos 97", Greek fighter planes will for the first time land at the newly constructed Paphos military airbase. It is reported that the deployment and logistic maintenance of Greek fighter planes at Paphos airbase will significantly increase their operational flight time capacity in the area (Greek Cypriot daily Alithia of 23 September 1997).

The Greek Cypriot side's policy of escalation and tension on the island, coupled with its blatant attempts to undermine the parameters established by the United Nations for a peaceful settlement in Cyprus by using the European Union aspect, are signs that we have entered a critical phase of the Cyprus question. It is imperative that all interested parties impress upon the Greek Cypriot side the need to desist from its reckless policy of escalation and concentrate its efforts towards the finding of a settlement on the basis of bi-communality, bi-zonality and political equality.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus